

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### FIRST RECORD OF *TRACHINOCEPHALUS MYOPS* (SCHNEIDER, 1801) (PISCES: SYNODONTIDAE) IN VICTORIAN WATERS

Members of the family Synodontidae (lizardfishes) generally occur on sandy substrates in tropical and sub-tropical seas (Norman 1935). Off the coast of northern Australia, for example, these fish are a significant component of the catch taken by vessels trawling the continental shelf (Edwards 1983). Individuals of *Trachinocephalus myops* belong to a monotypic genus which has a broad circum-tropical distribution (Norman 1935, Munro 1955, 1967). In Australia, *T. myops* has been recorded previously in waters less than 200 m deep off the northern half of the continent, and southward to Garden Island (32°10'S) off Western Australia, and Botany Bay (34°00'S) in New South Wales (State Pollution Control Commission 1981, Hutchings & Thompson 1983, Sainsbury *et al.* 1985).

The first record of *T. myops* in Victorian waters was made in Anderson Inlet (38°40'S, 145°45'E) in April 1981. One juvenile *T. myops* (length to caudal fork: 45 mm; wet weight 613 mg) was collected at Mann's Landing on a sandflat covered by less than 1 m of water with a temperature of 17.5°C and a salinity of 32 p.p.t. This inlet was sampled as part of a preliminary survey of juvenile fish in inlets and estuaries along the coast of Victoria; the results of this survey are summarized in Ramm (1986). The occurrence in Victorian waters of *T. myops* and other taxa, such as the boxfish *Lactoria cornutus* (Ramm 1986), and the copepods *Acartia danae* and *Temora turbinata* (G. F. Watson pers. comm.), which have tropical or warm temperate affinities, may be correlated with the geographic extent of the East Australian current. This current is known to intrude into the eastern region of the Bass Strait during summer (Rochford 1976).

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